

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 090674
ORIGIN SS-25

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 090674

EXDIS, FOR CHARGE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, PDIP, SHUM, CASC, LA, US

SUBJECT: AMERICAN MIA'S IN LAOS

REF: VIENTIANE 413

1. WE BELIEVE A NEW APPROACH ON THIS SUBJECT SHOULD BE
DELAYED UNTIL WE HEAR FROM FODAG ROME AND CAN DECIDE WHAT
WE MAY WANT TO SAY TO THE LAO ON THEIR FOOD ASSISTANCE
REQUEST.

2. HIRC SUBCOMMITTEE ON EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC AFFAIRS NOW
PLANS TO INCLUDE FOLLOWING STATEMENT ON LAOS FOOD AID AND
MIA'S IN THE TEXT OF ITS REPORT TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE
HIRC, WHICH SHOULD BE PUBLISHED EARLY IN MAY:

LAOS FOOD AID & MIA'S: DUAL HUMANITARIAN CONCERN
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PAGE 02 STATE 090674

MR. CHAIRMAN, ON THE MATTER OF HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE
TO LAOS, A NATION WHICH HAS FORMALLY REQUESTED FOOD AID
FROM THE UNITED STATES, THE SUBCOMMITTEE WISHES TO NOTE THAT
THE PRESIDENT ALREADY POSSESSES STATUTORY AUTHORITY TO
EXTEND SUCH ASSISTANCE THROUGH TITLE II OF PL-480.

THE SUBCOMMITTEE ALSO WISHES TO NOTE THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF LAOS SHARES A DUAL HUMANITARIAN CONCERN WITH THE

AMERICAN PEOPLE IN TERMS OF PROVIDING US WITH INFORMATION ON OUR MISSING IN ACTION FROM THE INDOCHINA WAR.

IN SHORT, BOTH GOVERNMENTS HAVE IT WITHIN THEIR POWER TO MEET THE HUMANITARIAN NEEDS OF THE PEOPLE OF EACH NATION. NO ACTION BY THE CONGRESS IS NECESSARY.

I WOULD SAY, MR. CHAIRMAN, ON THE MATTER OF MIA'S IN LAOS, THAT ON THE DIRECTION OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE, ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE HOLBROOKE CABLED OUR OFFICIALS IN VIENTIANE EXPRESSING OUR CONCERN, AND ASKING FOR GREATER EFFORT IN THE FINAL ACCOUNTING OF OUR MIA'S. THIS WAS A USEFUL STEP, BUT WE STILL ARE HOPEFUL THAT ACTUAL RESULTS WILL BE FORTHCOMING FROM THE LAOTIANS.

3. SINCE REPORT HAS NOT YET BEEN PUBLISHED AND MAY BE REVISED, LANGUAGE IS BEING PROVIDED FYI ONLY. VANCE

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